

**Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-5 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 3-5 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of the above amendments.

**Claim Objections**

The Examiner objected to claim 2 for missing punctuation. Claim 2 has been amended and this objection is thus obviated.

**Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Tarr et al. (6,084,587). Tarr et al. show a method and apparatus for generating and interfacing with a haptic virtual reality environment. However, the present invention is distinct from Tarr et al. in that it is directed to use for surgical training and thus forms a virtual object with multiple layers that is represented by a poly-form mesh. The multiple layers are particularly important in surgical applications because different properties can be applied each layer and abnormalities beneath the skin, such as a tumor, can be identified. In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner find the pending claims 1-5 allowable and issue a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 854-4237 should she determine that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Bharti Temkin, et al., Applicants

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By: 

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